

# MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMISSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Deb Falk-Palec, Chairperson  
Tim Ochnikowski, Director  
October 13, 2014

## MINUTES

St. John's Properties  
1800 N. Prospect Ave  
1:00 PM

### ITEM I CALL TO ORDER

Chair Falk-Palec called the October meeting of the Commission for Persons with Disabilities to order at 1:00pm.

Mr. Bonk indicated that Mr. Ochnikowski is unable to attend as he's meeting with the County Board's Finance Committee on the 2015 recommended budget for the office.

### ITEM II ROLL CALL

Chair Falk-Palec led the self-introductions of those present. Commissioners present for the meeting of the Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities were:

Deb Falk-Palec  
John Haupt  
Tom Jacobs  
Denise Koss  
Barbara Leigh  
Cheri Mc Grath  
Don Richards  
Meg Steimle  
Andrzej Walz-Chojnacki

Absent or Excused:

Luis Arroyo  
Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.  
Susan Pickering  
Kathryn Zalewski

Staff:

Mike Bonk

Guests:

Don Natzke, MTS

### ITEM III APPROVAL OF MINUTES (September)

Chair Falk-Palec accepted the minutes as approved.

### ITEM IV SPECIAL REPORT

### ITEM V TRANSIT PLUS REPORT

Mr. Natzke gave brief reports regarding the M Card and the process of charging them up, Dale Noll (technology specialist) leaving MTS, the no-show policy for Transit Plus appointments, the Rider's Guide, Securement Committee updates, and the snow removal campaign that's coming up. Ridership numbers are up.

### ITEM VI COMMITTEE UPDATES

Facilities Access Committee met prior to the Commission meeting and discussed the Audible Signals located near the St. John's properties off of Prospect and Farwell. Committee members went to the actual stops where the audible signals were located and discussed the volume. The audible signals are supposed to be heard from 12 feet away. Some audible signals were adequate while others could not be heard. The committee also recognized that the signal volumes adjusted to a higher volume when more traffic or additional noises were near the signals. (Ex. Truck drives by the signal gets much louder) The committee expressed their concerns to the commission about the volume being inadequate. It was noted that the neighbors near these signals previously complained of the noise, and the volumes were reduced. The committee also discussed the type of audible signals that are used noting that other signals may be better to use. The committee discussed contacting additional committees like the Bicycle and Pedestrians Committee

for the City of Milwaukee, as well as Kristen Bennett, or Scott Reinbacher of the City to discuss the audible signals and how to best utilize the technology so it can be heard, and not offend the neighbors.

## **ITEM VII REVIEW OFFICE REPORT (September)**

Mr. Bonk gave an overview of the Grant facility being leased, starting January 1, 2015, by Adult Day Services of Southeast Wisconsin, and the Underwood facility being leased, starting January 1, 2015, by Goodwill Industries. Both lease run for three years, ending December 31, 2017, under the same terms. Also reviewed was the office's work on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the ADA. The new logo is being utilized throughout the county. The sound barrier at Underwood should be completed this week.

## **ITEM VIII COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS**

Commissioner Zalewski (UWM Partnership w/ Transit Plus. Kathy could not make the Commission Meeting so Madam Chair Deb Falk-Palec provide information regarding the Partnership. The Pilot is going well with MCTS, and giving students real life work experience. UWM completed 38 Assessments so far and their goal is to do about 16 to 24 assessments per week. The partnership is working out great for both MCTS and UWM.

Recreation Update(s) Mike gave a brief update regarding the Summer Camp Surveys, which had positive feedback . He also gave a brief update on Fall Programming, and how numbers appear to be up for some classes. In addition we discussed the Tap the Potential events, specifically the Mitchell Airport Art Show, and discussed the need to award a winner for the Eric Hobbs Award. The Award is to go to the best art piece and is awarded \$500 in exchange for the piece. We discussed the winner's piece "Winged Flight" by Rosemary Fortney and how she valued her piece higher than \$500. The commission couldn't recall what we decided on doing if a piece was valued more, so they would like to have the office refer to last year's minutes discussing the procedure. In addition to TAP events Mike discussed an upcoming opportunity to go to a Bucks Game through our Recreational Programming and participants will be able to go on the court. Mike also reminded the Commissioners that we receive Holiday Folk Fair Tickets to distribute to persons with disabilities, and to make the community aware of this opportunity.

Chairpersons Report – Chair Deb Falk-Palec presented an article discussing the recent Film Festival Activities, and explained that the Film Festival is looking to make local connections next year to promote its activities, as well as themes. Deb thought it would be a good opportunity for MPT and the Tap the Potential Committee to possibly partner on the two events.

Deb also brought up her concerns again regarding the Katie Beckett form, which is extremely extensive to handwrite out every year, when an electronic version should be available with today's technology that is available. She is continuing to speak with Assistant Secretary Moore about the possibility of getting this form electronic.

## **ITEM IX OTHER MATTERS BY COMMISSIONERS**

Andrzej brought up the fact that there will be some changes coming forth in 2015 regarding programming dollars through Medicaid and how it will impact people with disabilities. A lot of the changes are still to be worked out, but he wanted to note the change coming, so we can monitor the changes and how it will affect people with disabilities.

## **ITEM X OTHER MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC**

## **ITEM XI ADJOURN**

Chair Falk-Palec adjourned the meeting at 2:20pm. The next meeting of the Commission will be Monday, November 10, 2014 at 1:00pm at St. John's Properties (1800 N. Prospect Ave, Milwaukee).

Submitted by: Mike Bonk & Tim Ochnikowski, Staff to the Commission